South Carolina's

Young Farmer & Future Farmer

Magazine

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Magazine

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On the Cover: The State FFA Officers take a break from seminars at the National Leadership Conference held in July at Jekyll Island, GA. (L-R): Chris Hicks, David Nixon, Rachelle Jackson, Faith Lawrimore, Warren Larrimore and Joey Gunter.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

To Young Farmers

By Steve Willis, Executive Secretary

The 17th Summer tour was hosted by the Hickory Tavern Chapter on July 23-24, with headquarters at the Comfort Inn, Laurens. Several local and state agribusinesses sponsored the tour through contributions toward the transportation, meals, and refreshments. The tour was planned and organized by District I State Vice-President, Rex Bates, and Hickory Tavern Chapter.

The Hickory Tavern Chapter hosted a dinner after registration Friday evening and began the tours Saturday morning. Stops included the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Thornwell Orphanage, and Vulcan Materials, Inc. A delicious Bar-B-Que lunch was provided by the Hickory Tavern Chapter.

Young Farmers had the opportunity to view several different agricultural operations and meet others to exchange ideas and comments.

Our 46th State Convention will be held in Greenville, January 14-15, 1994 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Look for details in the near future. Now is the time for chapters to be completing contest award applications. Applications have been given to all advisors. Please make every effort to submit an application in each area.

Myrtle Beach Days

There's an old adage that states, "Leaders aren't born, they're made." The FFA Chapter Officers Leadership Training Conference does just that each year in Myrtle Beach.

The objectives of the leadership conference are to: [1] Motivate participants to become more effective and useful FFA members and officers; [2] Develop skills necessary to serve as chapter officers; [3] Exchange ideas on various chapter programs and problems; [4] Seek ways to improve local chapters and strengthen the SC FFA; and [5] Develop social skills through organized recreational activities.

This year's camp was held June 22-25 under the direction of FFA Executive Secretary and Advisor, J. Earl Frick, Jr.

Pat Earle presents "A Tale of Four Taters'.

Over 135 FFA members from 27 chapters attended sessions in personal leadership, development of chapter activities, and the duties of chapter officers.

Guest speakers included Kirby Player, Student Services Coordinator at Clemson's College of Agricultural Sciences, and Marty Coates, former National FFA Officer. And on Day Two of the camp, McBee FFA Advisor Pat Earle captivated members with a presentation on developing a chapter program of activities. "Most people don't plan to fail," said Earle, "they fail to plan." Using a presentation by the "Tater" family, Earle explained some of the failings of FFA chapters and ways to eliminate these shortcomings.

A Chapter Safety Awards program was given by Steve McGaha, advisor at Pleasant Hill High School and winner of a free trip to Kansas City for his school efforts during 1992-1993. McGaha urged the young leaders to target programs to their environments and form a theme for the entire school year. Perennial BOAC Award-Winner Billy Keels from the Hillcrest/Dalzell FFA Chapter spoke about a four-step program he initiated that works year-in and year-out to better the Sumter community.

The activities culminated in a simulated Parent-Member Banquet where opening remarks were made by State FFA President David Nixon. The keynote address was given by recently retired State FFA President Patrick Stone.

And now...
A Word from the President

From bungee jumping in Myrtle Beach to leadership conferences in Jekyll Island, Georgia, your State Officer Team has been very busy this summer. In our travels away from home most of the summer, we've become good friends and learned many valuable leadership skills which we hope will be beneficial to the chapters.

The FFA Association of South Carolina is going through a difficult time. We are experiencing a recent decline in membership, with membership last year being the lowest it has been in over a decade. The association needs your help! The National FFA Organization is publishing materials to assist chapters with recruitment. The materials are focused to recruit potential agriculture education students and FFA members with the target audience being eighth grade students. The only thing that remains is the involvement of every chapter member. The input of every member is necessary in the recruitment process to show what opportunities are made available through the FFA. Your chapter may already have recruitment techniques that work more efficiently than the ones provided by the National Organization. If so, share them with one of the State Officers and other chapters so your ideas can be used by chapters throughout the state.

South Carolina's FFA Association will be experiencing a great loss in the retirement of our State Advisor, Mr. J. Earl Frick. We will miss Mr. Frick and we all admire him for his years of service and dedication. We wish Mr. Frick the best in his retirement years and hope he will continue in his involvement with the FFA.

Some good news for the FFA in South Carolina is the recent announcement by Mr. Lee Mayfield that he will be a candidate for a National FFA Office. Lee has stated that he needs the support of every FFA member and advisor in the state as he prepares for the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri in November. If you see Lee, let him know that you and your chapter are behind him. It's time for South Carolina to have a National Officer.

As you can see, the association does need your support and involvement. I also hope that everyone realizes that we are YOUR State Officer Team and we are elected to serve the members. We think of it as an honor to be invited to your banquets and meetings, but we have agreed to try and do more. It is our intention to be involved with the workings of the individual chapters in an attempt to increase membership and conduct workshops to increase leadership. If you need anything of your state officers please call or write us. I impress upon you once again that we are your State Officer Team and are at your disposal. Each of us are looking forward to working with you!

Banding Together

The convention of the South Carolina Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association proved to be bittersweet, as the state's educators in agriculture came together to discuss business and at the same time celebrated the retirement of four of their own.

Coordinated by Dr. Glenn Shinn and the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Clemson University, the three-day event brought together high school teachers from every district in the state from July 21-23.

Tommy Harmon of Lexington ATC leads one of the seminars.

At the organization's annual awards banquet, held on the last night of the convention, Dr. Larry Hudson was guest speaker and delivered a motivational speech to the association members.

Several of the state's finest were recognized for their many years of service. Drefus Williams of Furman-Manchester High School stood out among these with 40 years of teaching experience in agricultural education. Also, four retirees were honored for their dedication to students across South Carolina. Tom Welsh of the Farm Credit Bureau of Columbia gave brief descriptions and some personal memories of each before presenting them with sterling silver trays in appreciation for their many years of hard work. The retirees were J. Earl Frick, Jr. of the South Carolina Department of Education, Dr. Robert J. Mercer of the Clemson University Department of Agricultural Education, T.R. Cooke of Berea High School, and Dr. Harold J. Mackey of Belton-Honea Path High School.

Finally came the awards portion of the program, the part everyone enjoys the most. (Drum roll, please.) The Agriculture Teacher of the Year Award went to Clark Woods of Fountain Inn, SC, Fred Raines of Abbeville received recognition for the Outstanding

- Continued -

Why Don't You *EVER* Write?

Your new State FFA Officers were elected to serve you, the members of the South Carolina Association of FFA. If you've got any program ideas, comments, suggestions, or would like one of them to visit your school, just drop them a line at the following addresses. They're waiting to hear from *you!*

David Nixon, President
South Carolina FFA
Route 4, Box 132
Abbeville, SC 29620

Chris Hicks, Vice President
South Carolina FFA
Route 1, Box 16-7
McBee, SC 29101

Warren Larrimore, Reporter
South Carolina FFA
Post Office Box 95
Gresham, SC 29546

Faith Lawrimore, Treasurer
South Carolina FFA
Route 1, Box 360
Johnsonville, SC 29555

Rachelle Jackson, Secretary
South Carolina FFA
191 Marion Jackson Road
Salley, SC 29137

Joey Gunter, Sentinel
South Carolina FFA
1785 Pond Branch Road
Gilbert, SC 29054

Agriculture Program for '92-'93, and Pat Earle of McBee was named the SCVATA Teacher of the Year.

New teachers were also recognized at the banquet. Jason Wigington of Travelers Rest, Rodney Mann of Ridge Spring-Monetta, Daryl Brown of Aynor, Craig Evans of Andrews, Ben Snipes of Pleasant Hill and Melanie Dobbins all were honored for their commitment to agricultural education.

Jerry Pace of Britton's Neck, Fred Raines of Abbeville and Paul Jones of Duncan were named as Teacher of Teachers; while members of the group's 30 Minute Club were also announced. They are as follows:

Tommy Harmon
Paul Jones
Dr. Lloyd Blanton
Glenn Stevens
Dreyfus Williams
Dr. Glenn Shinn
Dr. Jack Mercer
Dr. Harold Mackey
Dr. Joe Harper
Frank Stover, Jr.
Jack Cunningham
Dr. Curtis White
Clark Woods

Also announced were the recipients of the 10 Year Award, 20 Year Award, 30 Year Award, and 40 Year Award. They are as follows:

10 Year Award
Al Gray
Mike Ajide
Barry Burdette
James R. Settle

20 Year Award
James Gilreath
Frank Sandifer
Harry DuBose
Tim Edge

30 Year Award
T.R. Cooke
J. Earl Frick

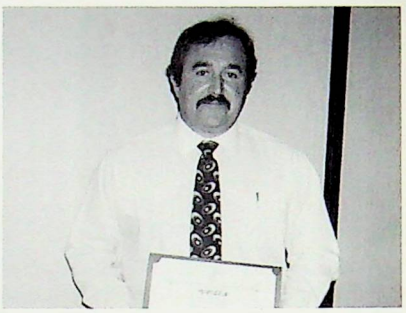
40 Year Award
Drefus Williams

The evening concluded with the election of new officers for the 1993-1994 School Year. These men who face the tough challenge of organizing Ag Ed in the state are:

Chris Edge, President
Greg Vaught, President-Elect
Fred Raines, District I Vice-President
Frank Sandifer, District II Vice-President
Dan Poston, District III Vice-President
Willie Capehart, District IV Vice-President
Glenn Stevens, Past President
G. Paul Jones, Executive Secretary
J. Earl Frick, Jr., Advisor

Your 1993-1994 SCVATA Officers (left to right): Chris Edge, Fred Raines, Frank Sandifer, Dan Poston, Paul Jones, Greg Vaught, and Glenn Stevens. (Not pictured: Willie Capehart)

Harold Mackey (center) and T.R. Cooke (right) are honored as retirees along with a seemingly surprised Earl Frick.



Clark Woods, Agriculture Teacher of the Year for 1993.

Mr. and Mrs. Drefus Williams celebrate his 40 years of agricultural education.

State FFA President David Nixon addresses those attending the SCVATA banquet.

Those receiving awards for decades of service to ag ed were: Harold Mackey, Drefus Williams, Earl Frick, Frank Sandifer, Barry Burdette, T.R. Cooke, Al Gray and Mike Ajide.

A Show For All Ages

Editor's Note: The following story was submitted for publication by FFA Advisor Drefus Williams of the Furman-Manchester Chapter.

It was a dreary, rainy, foggy morning on Wednesday, May 5th, when the FFA Agricultural and Environmental Show for preschoolers was scheduled. We were hoping the show would not be canceled because of the rain. To our surprise (or pleasure), the sun began to rise over Drefus Williams' Old Spain Ranch in Sumter, South Carolina, where the animals were ready to be petted, held, viewed and awed over.

Over fifty schools from Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties made the trip to the farm. State FFA officers Henry Poole, Wendell Bruner and predecessors Will Harman and Lee Mayfield also attended the event. Two separate sessions were offered: a morning show from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, and an afternoon show from 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm.

Woodsey the Owl visits with schoolchildren at the FFA Farm Show in Sumter, SC.

Many Furman High School students, members of school organizations, and the Williams family joined in with the Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter in this very successful day. The FFA Band, members of the Furman High School Choirs, and the Sanders Family String Trio entertained the children with a variety of music.

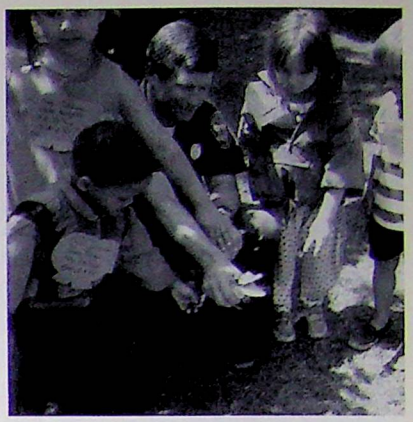
The FFA Agricultural and Environmental Show displayed a variety of animals. The children's faces were filled with anticipation as they saw and touched the animals; some of which the children had never seen in "real life." They rode horses provided by the the Thames, King and DuBose Farms, under the direction of Chrissy Charles. They watched baby chicks hatch, handled hamsters, played with kittens and puppies, and touched the soft ducklings and rabbits. The children also observed snakes, alligators, birds, fish, turtles, pigs, and a wildlife display under the supervision of Del Avins.

The Sumter County Fire Department displayed a fire truck and a demonstration of a fire expedition. They completely explained and demonstrated a house fire to the children. The firemen were suited and showed the children how to safely get out of a burning house.

The excitement continued with a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, Woodsey the Owl, and the famous Smokey the Bear. All stopped by to pose for pictures with the children. The children were filled with laughter as they went on hay rides through a nature trail. The tractors picked them up from the parking lot and after their visit, they were returned to their buses. They were cooled from the heat with refreshments furnished by the Carolina Coca-Cola Company and the Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter.

The day ended with smiles from the preschoolers and a feeling of accomplishment from the FFA members. Even after the last rooster crowed, the last hay ride was given, and the last song was sung, memories of the day linger on.

The FFA Farm Show was a complete success with help from the following agencies: Manchester Quail Farm, PRT Governor's Task Force on Litter, the SC Forestry Commission, the SC Wildlife Commission, the Sumter County Fire Department, Thames Farm, the Sumter County Police Department, WRJA Educational Television, The Item and The State newspapers, the Furman High School Agricultural Advisory Committee, Nettles Kubota Tractor Company, the Palmetto Gas Corporation, several community volunteers, and the New Bethel Baptist Church.



South Carolina Wildlife Commission employee Del Avins supervises children from Shaw Heights as they encounter a baby alligator...up close!

Boys and girls wait anxiously for a chance to hold a baby chick; many for the first time.

Parking lot shuttles ran students and teachers back and forth to the festivities "country-style".

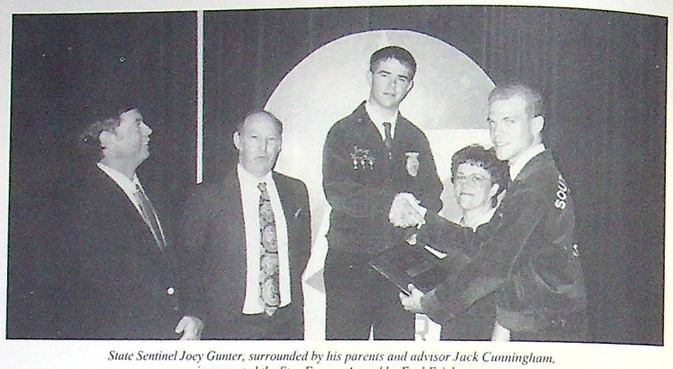
Supercharged With Enthusiasm...
The 66th Annual State FFA Convention

To borrow an oft-used phrase from Clemson University's own Kirby Player, "Supercharged with Enthusiasm" definitely described the air surrounding the 66th Annual State FFA Convention, held June 9th through 11th at the upstate school.

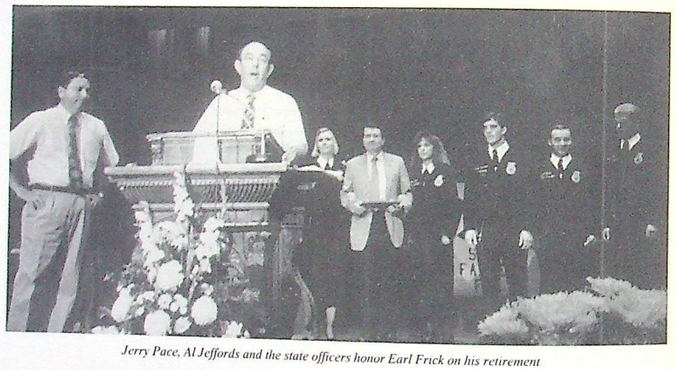
Many events qualified as highlights for the three day happening; however, the hit of the show was the appearance of National FFA Secretary Kevin White, who delivered the keynote address at the First General Session. White entertained the over 350 FFA members, advisors and guests with a delightfully humorous look at his life and times, which sometimes was not quite so laughable. White definitely displayed the poise and confidence inherent in a leader, and encouraged others to develop those skills in themselves.

Also speaking on opening night were Dr. Milton Wise, the Vice-President for Agriculture and Natural Resources at Clemson (and an FFA member from 1942), Dr. Nancy Cassidy Dunlap, Senior Executive Assistant at the State Department of Education, and Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal (an FFA member in 1941). Both Dunlap and Tindal thanked J. Earl Frick and Hugh P. McClimon for their tireless efforts in agricultural education, which served as a fitting preface to the presentation of the Outstanding Service Award to McClimon.

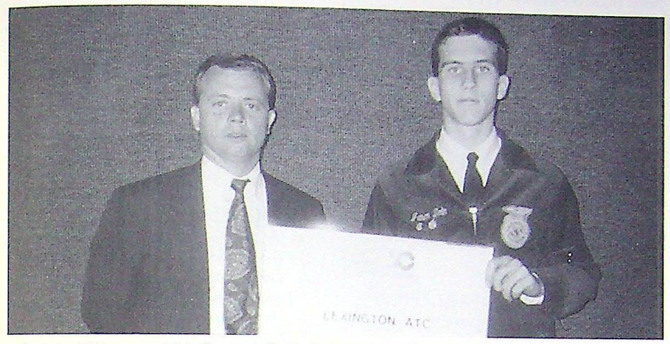
Thursday proved to have yet another busy schedule, with state officers' retiring addresses, a motivational speech by lecturer Scott Friedman, recognition of winners in several categories, and the ever-popular drop in and dance, sponsored by South Carolina Farm Bureau. Star Farmer Joey Gunter of Gilbert and Star Agribusinessman John Helms of McBee were recognized for their outstanding efforts outside the classroom, while David Nixon of Abbeville and Al Gray of Pendleton were named "best in the state" in the field of agriscience.



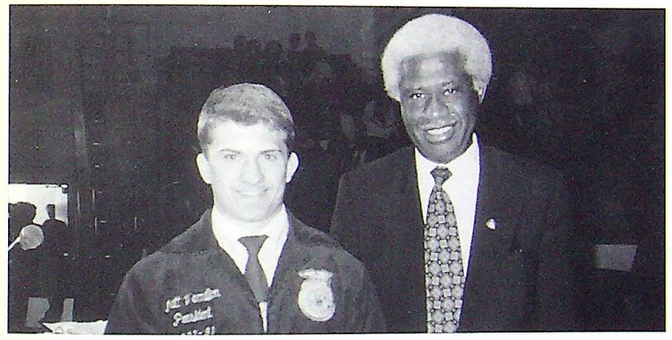
State Sentinel Joey Gunter, surrounded by his parents and advisor Jack Cunningham, is presented the Star Farmer Award by Earl Frick.



Jerry Pace, Al Jeffords and the state officers honor Earl Frick on his retirement



Lexington ATC was awarded the Governor's Citation for their BOAC project that assisted victims of Hurricane Andrew.



Matt Vermillion was accompanied by his advisor Harold Mackey as he picked up two awards.

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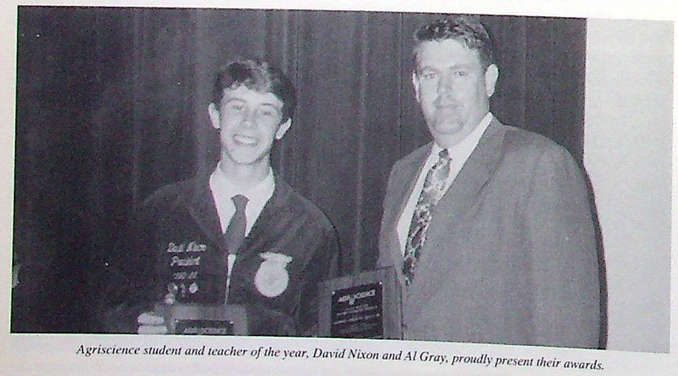
Congratulations Winners!

Encourage others to participate throughout the school year!



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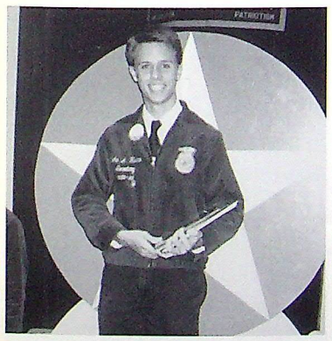

Star Agribusinessman John Helms is all smiles after receiving his award.

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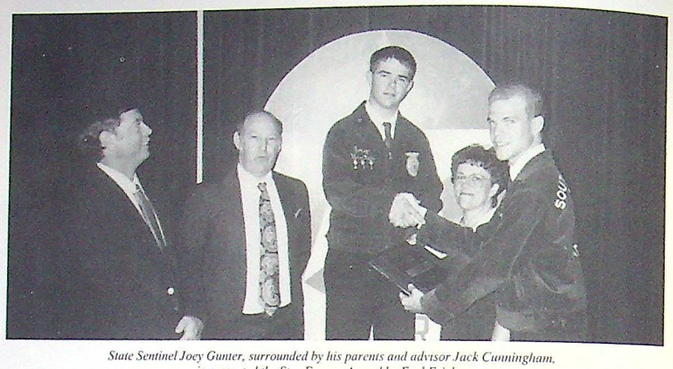

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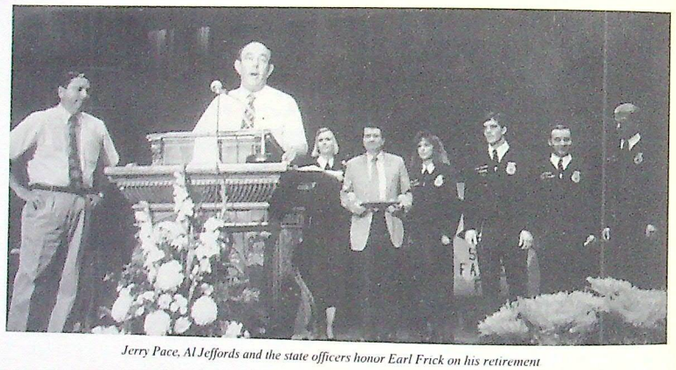

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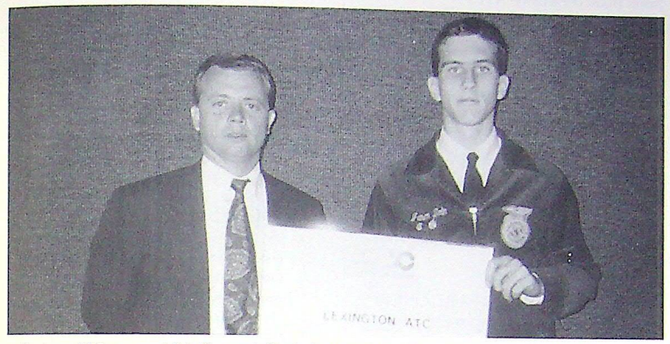

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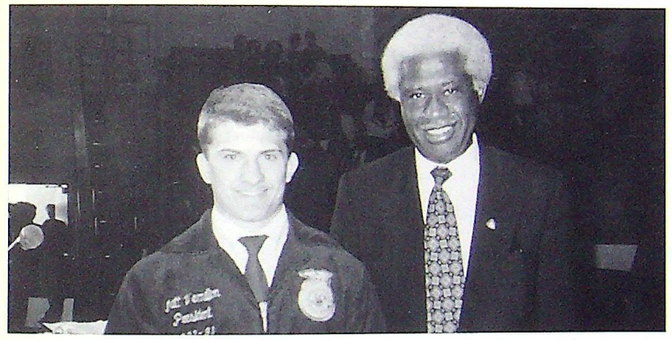

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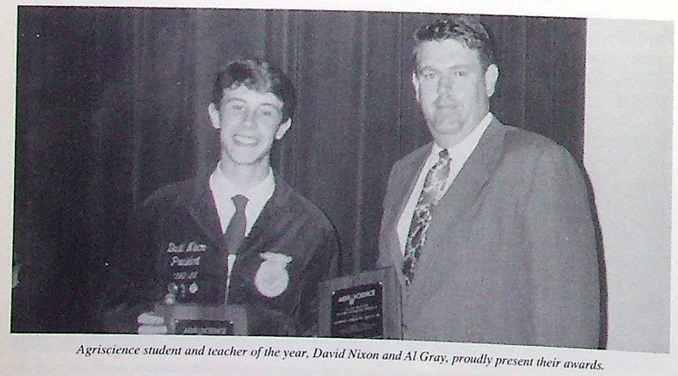

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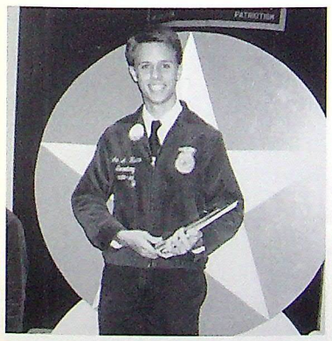

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Your 1993-1994 State Officer Team! (L-R) David Nixon, Chris Hicks, Warren Larrimore, Rachelle Jackson, Faith Lawrimore and Joey Gunter.

Champions In Their Own Right

The following people were recognized at the 66th Annual FFA Convention for their achievements in a variety of fields. The FFA would like to congratulate the winners and encourage others to participate in contests on all levels throughout the school year.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD:
Hugh P. McClimon, Former Advisor

STAR FARMER AWARD:
Joey Gunter [Gilbert]
Robert Stone [Crescent], District I
Timothy Griggs [McBee], District III
James Sheppard [Wagener-Salley], District IV

STAR AGRIBUSINESS AWARD:
John Helms [McBee]
Roy Estridge [Crescent], District I
Ronald Stephens [Clover], District II
Eddie Morris [Aiken], District IV

AGRISCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
Al Gray [Pendleton]

AGRISCIENCE STUDENT OF THE YEAR:
David Nixon [Abbeville]

1993-1994 STATE OFFICER TEAM:
David Nixon [Abbeville] - President
Christopher Hicks [McBee] - Vice President
Warren Larrimore [Britton's Neck] - Reporter
Faith Lawrimore [Pleasant Hill] - Treasurer
Rachelle Jackson [Wagener-Salley] - Secretary
Joey Gunter [Gilbert] - Sentinel

1993 STATE FFA NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
Daniel Styron [Pendleton]
Brian Hickey [Traveler's Rest]
Lynn Hicks [Lexington ATC]
Creighton McCutcheon [Pelion]
Jennifer Newman [Furman/Manchester]
Willie Hayes [Marion]
Stacy David [Hunter-Kinard-Tyler]
Ed Saum [Midland Valley]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP:
Trent Jeffcoat [Lexington ATC]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FORGIVABLE LOAN AWARDS:
Jamison Perry Cox [Traveler's Rest]
Alvin Dale Powell [Pickens]

INDIVIDUAL FFA AWARDS:
Matt Vermillion [Belton-Honea Path]
Joey Gunter [Gilbert]
Anthony Graves [Britton's Neck]
Brandi McIntosh [Aiken]

BOAC GOVERNOR'S CITATION:
Tommy Harmon, Advisor [Lexington ATC]

BOAC GRANT AWARDS:
Jason Bolin [Lexington ATC]
Lance Robertson [Britton's Neck]

NATIONAL CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS:
Thomas R. Cooke, Advisor [Berea]
Steve McGaha, Advisor [Pleasant Hill]
Drefus Williams, Advisor [Furman/Manchester]

PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD:
Jeffery French [Hillcrest/Dalzell]

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AWARD:
Latta FFA Chapter

COMPUTERS IN AGRICULTURE AWARD:
Matt Vermillion [Belton-Honea Path]

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION AWARD:
Matt Vermillion [Belton-Honea Path]

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AWARD:
Ben Hardee, Advisor [Loris]

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONTEST:
Jerry Pace, Advisor [Britton's Neck]

FLORICULTURE CONTEST:
Tommy Harmon, Advisor [Lexington ATC]

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE CONTEST:
Mark Wyndham, Advisor [Fort Mill]

AGRICULTURE MECHANICS CONTEST:
Clark Woods, Advisor [Hillcrest/Greenville]

CREED SPEAKING CONTEST:
Ashley Burrows [Hillcrest/Sumter]

SUPERIOR CHAPTER AWARDS:
John Herron and Jay Copelan
Advisors, [Cresent]
Glenn Stevens, Advisor [Traveler's Rest]
Pat Earle, Advisor [McBee]

AGRICULTURE PROFICIENCY AWARDS:
Agricultural Electrification
Matt Vermillion [Belton-Honea Path]
Agricultural Mechanics
Michael Lingerfelt [Travelers Rest]
Agricultural Sales/Services
Herbert Grant [Marion]
Beef Production
Jennifer Simpson [Crescent]
Dairy Production
Brad Willis [Hillcrest/Dalzell]
Diversified Crop Production
Roy Estridge [Crescent]
Floriculture
Daniel Crouch [Lexington ATC]
Forage Production
David Mathis [Crescent]
Fruit/Vegetable Production
Nathan James Bradford [Hillcrest/Dalzell]
Home/Farmstead Improvement
Walter Scott [Midland Vally]
Horse Proficiency
Dale Davis [Chesterfield]
Nursery Operations
Eddie Morris [Aiken]
Outdoor Recreation
Joshua M. Taylor [Crescent]
Placement in Agricultural Production
John Hughes [Pleasant Hill]
Poultry Production
Joseph P. Payton [Aiken]
Sheep Production
Lisa White [Chesterfield]
Soil/Water Management
Tonya Simpson [Crescent]
Turf/Landscape Management
Jeremy Bentley [Blue Ridge]
Wildlife Management
Jamie Cox [Travelers Rest]

ROAD TRIP!

Make plans now to visit the largest farm show in the South at the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Georgia, (October 19th through the 21st).

Over 80 acres of exhibit space are host to 800 exhibitors and $4,000 plus equipment lines. The 200,000 annual visitors of the event also have the opportunity to view 600 acres of field demonstrations.

For more information, call the Sunbelt Ag Expo at (912) 386-3459, or write to Sunbelt Expo, P.O. Box 28, Tifton, Georgia 31793.

"Work Is Love Made Visible"

- Kahlil Gibran

J. Earl Frick, Jr. is recognized for his many years of service to Agricultural Education.

Every once in a while, somebody comes along that is truly one-of-a-kind...the type of person who makes a difference in every life he touches. J. Earl Frick, Jr. is one of those special people.

As the Executive Secretary and Advisor to the FFA and Advisor to the Young Farmer organizations, Earl Frick has had the opportunity to get to know literally hundreds of folks, both young and old. Mr. Frick greets each as if he were a long, lost friend; with a smile, a handshake, and that old familiar "Hey! How you doin'?" that makes one feel immediately at home.

A graduate of Clemson University, Earl Frick received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education in 1963, and immediately began teaching at McColl High School in Marlboro County. He later joined the State Department of Education as Assistant District Supervisor of Ag Ed in Florence in 1966. He was named State FFA Executive Secretary in 1970, and was transferred to the Columbia office in 1991 after the reorganization of the Department of Education.

Among his achievements are memberships in SCVATA, the South Carolina Association of FFA and the Young Farmers, all of which he has served in the capacity of advisor. He holds the Honorary State Farmer and Honorary American Farmer Degrees, and was initiated in the Clemson University Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honorary Fraternity for professional workers in agriculture.

Mr. Frick considers his greatest achievement to be his family, however. His wife Jennie, daughters Jennifer and Julie, and son Al have provided the support structure he has depended on for over 28 years. Still a resident of Florence, Mr. Frick is active in his community and St. Luke Lutheran Church, where he has served as lay chairman, Sunday School teacher and choir member.

Always the gracious one, Mr. Frick is quick to recognize others who have influenced him throughout his career and thanks "teachers, staff members and friends for their support and help in promoting Agricultural Education and the FFA" during his career. Those who know Mr. Frick would not be surprised at this statement, as his unselfish nature dictates that he always put others before himself.

It is often said that you don't know what you have until it is gone. However, the FFA has always known what an invaluable friend it has in Earl Frick; and those who have had the honor of knowing him will certainly miss his heartwarming presence in the months to come.

A Meeting Of The Minds

Warren Larrimore listens to lessons in Parliamentary Procedure from FBLA Advisor Katherine Cliatt.

Leaders of six different student organizations convened for the first time in over a decade to exchange ideas and learn new ones at the Occupational Education Student Organizations Workshop, held at the Town House Hotel in Columbia July 19th and 20th.

State officers from the FFA, the Future Homemakers Association (FHA), Health and Occupational Safety Association (HOSA), Future Business Leaders' Association (FBLA), Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) attended the two day workshop. Among the featured speakers were Dr. Barbara Stock Nielsen, Superintendent of the SC Department of Education; her Senior Executive Assistant, Dr. Nancy Cassidy Dunlap; and Pete Reed of the the Department Leadership Academy.

Others making presentations were Robert Funderburk of Funderburk's at Middleborough, who led the etiquette session; and Lori Fraley of Millie Lewis Modeling, who spoke on Dress and Stage Presence.

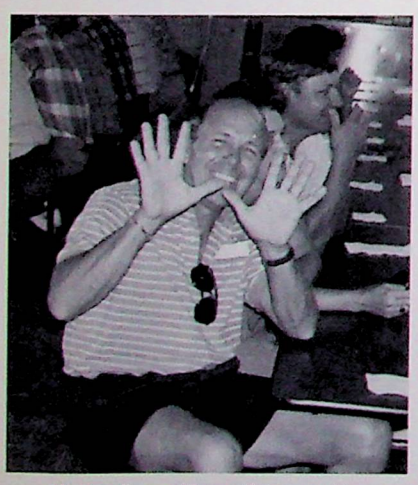
David Nixon (far left) and other student leaders are all a part of the Occupational Education Workshop in Columbia.

Over 40 officers and advisors were present at the event, designed to promote cooperation and goodwill among the students. Said FFA Executive Secretary J. Earl Frick, Jr., "This conference gives the students a chance to get some good, fresh ideas about ways improve their organization and increase membership."

Hot Fun In The Summertime

A major employer in Greenwood, Park Seed Company employs 850 people during peak seasons.

Mr. Bill Cook of Park Seed Company explains the dynamics of a 125-year-old family owned business.



Mr. Doug Reeves of Reevesville has everything "all framed up".

A let-up in the 100 degree temperatures that invaded the South for weeks provided the perfect backdrop for the Young Farmer Summer Tour hosted by the Hickory Tavern chapter.

Stewart Glenn and other Laurens-area farmers planned a weekend full of activities for the young farmers and their families. The tour originated at the Comfort Inn in Clinton, from where the group left to visit Wal-Mart's gigantic warehouse distribution center, located on I-385.

After a good night's sleep, the farmers and their guests departed for a tour of the Thornwell Orphanage's operational dairy farm. Among the notable sights were 42 Jersey cows, 100-150 beef cattle, milk barns and one large Jersey bull that weighed over a ton.

Before leaving the dairy farm, retired Clemson professor of agriculture Dr. Art Jensen spoke to the group on the importance of establishing a strong FFA Alumni organization throughout the state. "The tradition of an agrarian society is being lost," said Jensen. "We need a groundswell of support for agricultural sciences and agricultural education." There are several things members of an FFA Alumni chapter can do to assist in this effort. "You could help serve on a contest judging team, prepare students for events, or even act as a sponsor," explained Jensen. All former FFA members and friends of the organization are encouraged to get involved. Be sure to contact an FFA chapter advisor for more information.

Vulcan Materials Company was the next stop on the trip (a business that thrives on "unfarmable" land). The company has mined granite and rock since 1949, and has 16-17 other quarries in Georgia and Alabama. Vulcan employs 17 people and specializes in drilling, hauling, loading, processing and shipping.

Next, the caravan of cars and buses headed for Doc and Corrine Hendrick's farm located just outside of Greenville, SC to view

After a busy morning everyone was ready for a break and the terrific barbecue lunch provided by Vulcan Materials, Inc. and the Laurens County Council.

Before departing the Thornwell Orphanage Dairy Farm, retired Professor of Agriculture at Clemson University, Dr. Art Jensen encourages everyone to get involved with the support of state agricultural activities.

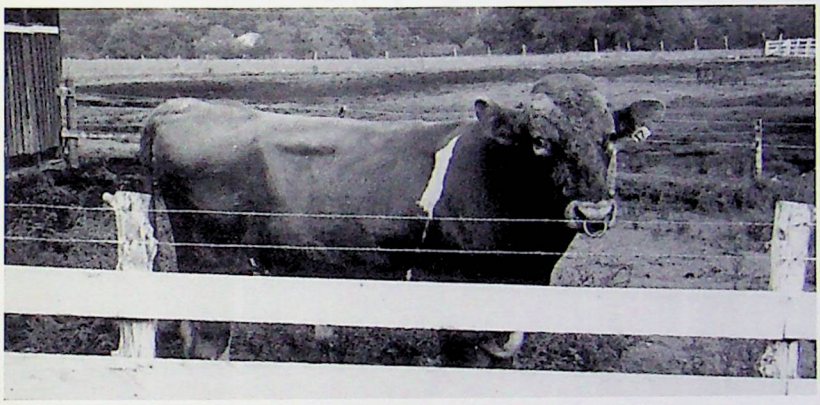
beef operations firsthand. The cattle farm proved to be a very well-kept, extremely organized operation run by a sharp couple.

Mid-day brought an enjoyable break for the group, as everyone stopped for a delicious, down-home, country barbecue lunch provided by the Hickory Tavern Young Farmers Chapter. Steve Myers spoke to the group on the need for a state coordinator and 4 state supervisors to strengthen FFA leadership. After the speakers addressed the group, a drawing was held for everyone in attendance. Several prizes were given away including extension cords, a cordless drill, and a motor control kit to name a few.

After lunch, we walked over to view the Hickory Tavern Cannery (the only operational one in the state, by the way) run by Stewart Glenn. Then the caravan headed to our last stop...Park Seed Company, where 850 employees load 5-6 tractor-trailer rigs with 5,000 to 6,000 orders daily. All those touring the facility were given sample seed packages to test their own green thumbs and another drawing was held in which Park Seed hats, tee-shirts, and bird feeders were given as prizes.

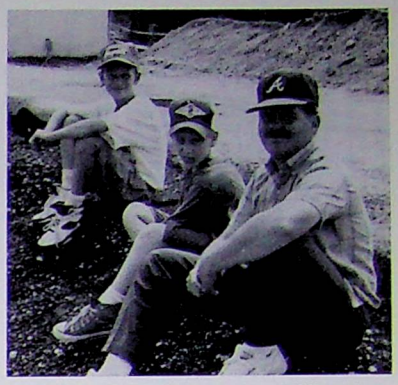
The highly enjoyable and successful summer tour of 1993 came to a close as the caravan rode off into the sunset.

The quarry machinery dwarfed everyone.



A prize Jersey Bull guards his domain.

Everyone had something of interest to see and discuss at Thornwell Orphanage.



Mr. Hall Rogers, Craig Covington (8), and William Nance (10) take a break at Vulcan Materials Company.

Our host, Mr. Charles Carter of Vulcan Materials Company, declares, "If you can't grow it, you gotta mine it."

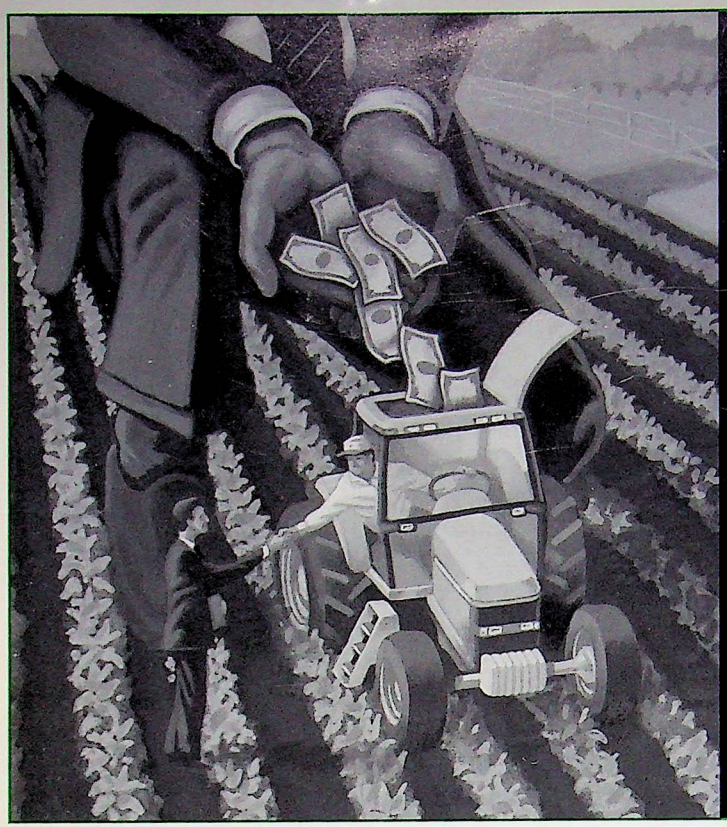
GIVE AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

The 1995 National Young Farmer Institute is coming to Charleston, and the Young Farmers need your help. A great deal of financing is needed to truly show others "The Charm of Charleston", and that is why the organization is sponsoring a raffle in which everyone wins.

All right, so not **everyone** will walk home with a new 300 Kawasaki Four-Wheeler, but anybody involved in South Carolina agriculture will feel like a million when the National Institute is a success.

The All-Terrain Vehicle will be awarded to one lucky winner at the State Young Farmer Convention in January. However, the chapter that sells the most tickets as a whole will receive $250.00 for their efforts.

A chance at the raffle costs $1.00, and all tickets and money should be returned by Nov. 15th to Gene Forrest, Jr., Route 2, Box 147, Johnston, SC 29832.



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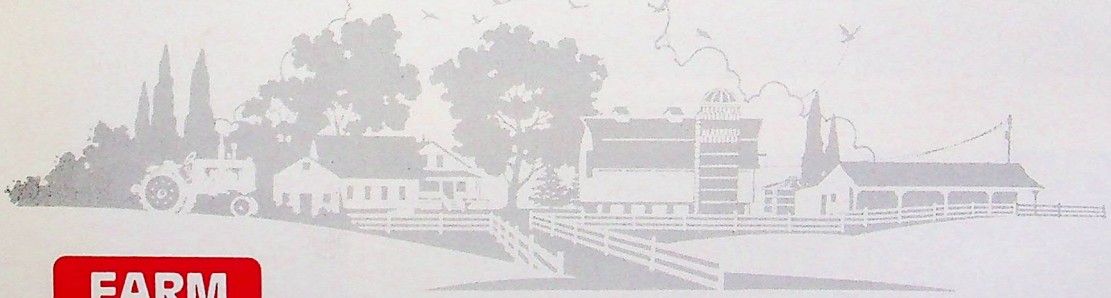

FARM BUREAU

Ever since its beginning in 1944, South Carolina Farm Bureau has been speaking out for farmers as their Voice of Agriculture.

As a new generation of farmers face the challenges of the 90s and beyond, Farm Bureau will continue to meet the needs of its members—whether it be lobbying for equitable legislation, helping to market commodities more effectively, telling the farmers' story, or by providing a full range of insurance services to meet the particular needs of farm families.

A Proud Tradition — An Even Brighter Future!